achievements were made Programmes for providing economic assistance to raise income levels of tribals to take them above the poverty line were continued during the 7th Plan. 52.89 lakh tribal families were economically assisted against the target of 41.56 lakhs.

(c) During the Seventh Five Year Plan the policy adopted was for:—

(i) Integrated Area Development.

(ii) elimination and exploitation in all forms by legislative measures.

(iii) speeding up the process of Socio-Economic Development by income generating schemes and other means.

(iv) improving organisational capability of tribals by suitable structural net work.

(d) No decision on changes has been taken.

National Book Trust of India

2650. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Book Trust of India was set up with the objective of generating interest for books among the people;

(b) if so, whether the said trust has been able to achieve this objective; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by it to generate interest for books among the people?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). The main objects of the National Book Trust, as stated in its Memorandum of Association, are as follows:

(a) to produce and to encourage the production of good literature, and to make such literature available at moderate prices to the public;

(b) in furtherance of the above objectives to publish more particularly books of the following types in English, Hindi and other Languages recognised in the Constitution of India;

(i) The classical literature of India;

(ii) Outstanding works of Indian authors in Indian Languages and their translation from one Indian language to another;

(iii) Translation of outstanding books from foreign languages;

(iv) Outstanding books of modern knowledge for popular diffusion;

(c) to bring out book lists, arrange exhibitions and seminars and take all necessary steps to make the people book-minded.

The trust has taken the following steps to generate interest in books:

(i) Publication of works of fiction and non-fiction of good quality fora general reader, on a variety of subjects, in English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and

Urdu and making these available at prices well within the means of the book reading public;

(ii) encouraging the publication of reasonably priced books for higher education by providing financial assistance to authors and publishers of textbooks and reference book for the a diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate levels;

(iii) providing assistance for the publication of books for children and for neo-literates;

(iv) promoting books and the book reading habit all over the country through book fairs, festivals and exhibitions, including the New Delhi World Book Fair, and through seminars, symposia and workshops;

(v) providing financial assistance to registered voluntary organisations for holding book exhibitions/affairs;

(vi) sponsoring celebration of National Book Week on an all India scale, involving educational institutions, libraries, authors, booksellers, publishers, etc;

(vii) implementing a scheme for setting up Readers' Club in schools with a view to mobilising teachers and motivating students to read and discuss books;

(viii) promoting Indian books abroad by organising India's participation in international book fairs held in different parts of the world.

[*English*]

Voluntary Disclosure Scheme Regarding Violation of Environment Laws

2651. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce a voluntary disclosure scheme whereby industries can disclose their violations of environment laws or safeguards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concessions/ incentives proposed to be given under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The proposal is under preparation.

Deforestation in Maharashtra

262. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area covered by natural forests in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Union Government are aware of large scale deforestation in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to check mass destruction of forests in Maharashtra?